

## A trip into Ancient History through 230 million year old dinosaur prints

**LOCATION:** Santisteban del Puerto (Jaén)

**LENGTH:** 1'22"

**SUMMARY:** In Santisteban del Puerto (Jaen) there are 26 mysterious dinosaur prints. The latest investigations have shed some light on them, though it is still not known which species they belong to; however, we can tell that it was a predecessor of the poposaurus or the theropod, dinosaur species that walked on two legs. The prints are unique in terms of their age – they are 230 million years old – and their shape.

### VTR:

Inside this building are 26 preserved dinosaur prints found in Santisteban del Puerto (Jaén). A recent study by Jaén University has produced new information about these tracks, which are the only ones of their kind in the world.

**Matias Reolid**  
**Palaeontologist at Jaen University**

*"Their shape has not been described until now and they are also quite old. They date from 230 million years ago, from the Triassic era."*

The Triassic era is the period during which dinosaurs first appeared, so the prints must belong to a predecessor of the dinosaurs, which left unusual markings. Their irregularity has made it more difficult to interpret them but it has confirmed that the sea temporarily reached this area.

**Matias Reolid**  
**Palaeontologist at Jaen University**

*"The area was partially submerged. They half swam, occasionally managing to reach the bottom, just scratching it."*

The prints have been scanned and, thanks to 3D technology, they will be available to the scientific community.

**Francisco Javier Cardenal**  
**Professor of Cartographic Engineering**

*"To study the prints, simulations can be done and measurements can be directly taken in the laboratory, but also a document database with regard to the conservation and preservation of this archaeological site."*

Whilst it is not known what the animal that produced the prints looked like, as a predecessor of the theropod and the poposaurus, it may well resemble them.

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